



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF STATE POLICE
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE



Leonard C. Boyle
Commissioner of Public Safety

Colonel Edward L. Lynch
Deputy Commissioner, Division of State Police

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

03/22/05

STATE TROOPER SUSPENDED

On August 17, 2004, a tragic motorcycle accident occurred in Lisbon, Connecticut claiming the life of Connecticut resident Justin Sawyer who succumbed to his injuries approximately one week later. The Connecticut State Police extend our deepest sympathy to the Sawyer family and regret that this tragedy was made worse by the unprofessional and disrespectful remarks made by the State Trooper working the desk at Troop-E to those who first reported the accident.

Last fall, the Connecticut State Police Internal Affairs Unit was assigned to initiate an investigation into the Desk Trooper's conduct after a complaint was made concerning the verbal comments made by the desk trooper to the 911 callers. State Police Internal Affairs Detectives interviewed every witness to the accident and emergency services personnel who were dispatched to the crash scene. The investigators also reviewed all available police and ambulance dispatch records and tape recordings of the 911 calls that reported the accident.

The internal investigation revealed that despite the Trooper's unprofessional, rude and inappropriate comments, both State Police and EMS personnel were dispatched promptly to the crash scene. According to one witness who reported the accident, the first Connecticut State Trooper arrived at the scene within 5 minutes of the accident of the accident. Given that the trooper was slightly more than 3 miles from the scene when he received the radio call, we are confident that the dispatch was made within seconds of Troop-E receiving the 911 call for help.

Nevertheless, there is no doubt that the desk trooper, Tfc. Robert Peasley, fell far short of conduct that Connecticut residents and visitors rightly expect from the Connecticut State Police and the State Police demands from its Troopers. For that reason, TFC. Peasley who has had a 18-year unblemished career, has been suspended from duty for 15 days without pay.

Again, the Connecticut State Police extend our heartfelt condolences to the Sawyer family and Justin's friends.

####END####

Sgt. J. Paul Vance

Sgt. J. Paul Vance
Tfc. Donna Tadiello
Tfc. William Tate

1111 Country Club Road
P.O. Box 2794
Middletown, CT 06457-9294
Tel: (860)685-8230/Fax: (860)685-8301

An Equal Opportunity Employer